



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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**This release is embargoed until 4 p.m.,
Jan. 8 unless otherwise released by the
437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer.**

17th AIRLIFT SQUADRON TO DEPLOY

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – Approximately 65 airmen from the 437th Airlift Wing's 17th Airlift Squadron are scheduled to deploy January 8 from Charleston Air Force Base to Rhein Main Air Base, Frankfurt, Germany.

An additional 15 members of the unit will leave Charleston AFB January 10 to join the first group in Germany.

Once in Germany, the members of the 17 AS will become the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron where they will fly missions from Germany to Iraq, Afghanistan and other regions of Southwest Asia and the world. The airmen can expect to be deployed for 90 days or more.

“We know it will be busy,” said Lt. Col. Don Shaffer, 17 AS commander, who previously commanded the 817 EAS from June-October 2002. “If we’re not working hard, then we’re missing something.”

Shaffer said the group deploying is made up of dedicated Air Force professionals, and he has no doubts that they will handle anything asked of them while on this deployment.

This deployment marks the seventh time a Charleston AFB commander has been placed in charge of the 817 EAS since the 17 AS stood it up in January 2002. Currently, the 7th Airlift Squadron from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., is manning the 817 EAS. The McChord squadron took over for members of Charleston AFB's 16th Airlift Squadron who returned here in October 2003.

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(Media must contact the Public Affairs Office to attend. Media will tentatively meet at the Dorchester Gate at 2:30 p.m. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Jason Smith at (843) 963-5589.)

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